GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7992
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2000
TRADITIONAL FISHERMEN
SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of regulations pertaining to fishing in international sea as per agreement signed with WTO; and

(b) the steps taken to safeguard the interests of traditional fishermen by providing them modern equipments in India?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): No specific regulations or Agreement has been signed with WTO on fishing in International Waters.However, in accordance with the provisions of United Nations Convention on the Law Of the Sea, (UNCLOS) India has declared a 200 nautical miles Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) by enacting `The Territorial Waters, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zone and other Maritime Zones Act of 1976. This enactment secures exclusive rights to exploit living and non-living resources comprising 2.02 million Sq. km. area within the EEZ. Besides, the Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981, provides for regulation of fishing by foreign fishing vessels within the EEZ of the country.

(b): The Government have inter-alia taken the following steps to safeguard the interests of traditional fishermen:

(i) Encouraging enactment of Marine Fishing Regulation Acts by maritime States for regulation of fishing and thereby providing exclusive rights to traditional fishermen within the territorial waters.

(ii) Assisting maritime States through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to procure patrol boats to monitor regulatory measures within the territorial waters;

(iii) Assisting the Coast Guard through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in their anti-poaching activities.

(iv) Provision of subsidies for procurement of engines @ Rs.10,000/ for out-board motor and Rs.12,000/ for in-board motor in order to extend the range of operation of traditional fishermen.

(v) Implementation of National Welfare Fishermen Scheme having the components of Saving-cum-Relief, Group accident insurance and housing for fishermen.